

# Urban-suburban Wildlife Ecology & Management



## **WF&CON 697U and (LEC) and 697V (LAB)**

Rapid urbanization is transforming landscapes around the world. This creates an urgent need both for wildlife conservation in cities and for science that addresses the ecology of places where people live.

This course surveys current topics in urban wildlife ecology, such as altered biotic community structure, invasive species, altered trophic dynamics, urban evolutionary biology, and urban ecological theories. Other issues and topics are determined by the student composition of the course.

For more information contact:

**Dr. Paige Warren**, [pswarren@forwild.umass.edu](mailto:pswarren@forwild.umass.edu), 545-0061

## **Course structure**

Combination of lecture and discussion  
Readings from current literature  
Guest lectures/discussion with other faculty

Each student leads the class discussion once during the semester.

## **Lab**

Students learn commonly used techniques for quantifying urbanization and wildlife habitat in urban-suburban environments. On a series of local field trips, the class is introduced to a variety of urban-suburban environments, some of which they may find surprising. Students are expected to develop and conduct their own research project within the semester.

## **Syllabus**

Week	Topic
1	Introduction, discussion of urbanization and urban demographic change
2	What is urban/suburban? Brief history of urban ecology
3	Paradigms in urban ecology
4	Who lives there? Urbanization, human diversity, and biodiversity
5	Who lives there? Urbanization and aquatic communities
6	Trophic dynamics: predators vs. resources
7	Human-wildlife conflicts I: predators
8	Human-wildlife conflicts II: pests
9	Species invasions / Biotic homogenization
10	Arboriculture, horticulture and wildlife habitat
11	Road ecology - the long arm of urbanization
12	Rats - Urban Ecology of the 1940s/ Thanksgiving
13	Landscape level: urbanization and fragmentation
14	Landscape level: patch dynamics
15	Presentations of research projects